

THE TOKEN HUNTER

N.U.T.S. National Utah Token Society

Dedicated to the collecting, recording and preserving of
Utah's historical medals, tokens, coins and bottles

JANUARY
2010

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year! I hope that everyone is ready to have successful and fun 2010. We have a lot of great plans this year with fantastic speakers scheduled, a Bourse (trade/sale) night, Finds of the Month (with a new juniors division 14 and under,) several club hunts, summer picnic, amazing Christmas party, and much more.



I am extremely honored and excited about being your NUTS President again in 2010. We plan to work very hard at continuing the fun and success that has been developed in the past. I feel that the club officers you have elected this year will bring a lot of experience, enthusiasm, and new energetic ideas to the NUTS club this year.



For our January meeting we have a wonderful speaker, Mr. Doug Nyholm. Doug is a professional Numismatist specializing in Mormon Currency. He will share with us his vast knowledge about Mormon Currency, it's history and mystique. So please plan on attending that night. Bring your family, a friend and have fun while learning more about Mormon Currency.

I look forward to our success this year as we all work together to have a fun enjoyable time. Lets all hope for warmer weather soon and a Gold Coin just around the corner.

See ya at the meeting.
Todd Monson



DATE: JANUARY 28, 2010

Time: 7:00 pm

**Location: Columbus
Community Center
2531 South 400 East**

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THE FIND

Glen Sidwell

The other day I spoke to an acquaintance on the phone. I didn't really know the guy, but we both knew some of the same people, and this is how we came to be talking. He had made a really great find. As is the common practice among us detectorists and diggers, I asked, "Tell me about it, how did you find it?"

While my new friend was recounting the events leading up to "the find", my excitement was building. I listened to his tale with anticipation, waiting for the minute we would discover what it was we had just dug up. The story, even in the retelling to me was enjoyable. Not as good as making the find yourself, but still enjoyable.

After our conversation ended I was telling my wife, Robin, about the call and the find. My new friend had made his find in a Nevada ghost town that Robin and I had searched several times. The last time we were there and at the end of the camp, I lamented that, "I don't want to leave. I wish we could stay another day!" I vowed we would return again soon. I just knew that there was treasure waiting there to be found. But as it turns out, we did not get back there soon enough.

I began thinking why didn't I return? If I had, the find could have been mine. I had probably spent a lot more time detecting that ghost town than this guy did, anyway. The find probably could have been mine. Should have been mine.

Whoa. Just a minute. This was beginning to sound like jealousy. Was I jealous? Yeah. Maybe a little. Of the prize he'd found? Yeah. And also of the "finding" of the find. You know how it is when you get that big bong of a signal and you just know that it is good, maybe great. The excitement builds as you narrow down the target site and begin to probe and dig. It is all together a wonderful adrenaline rush.

I knew how all this felt I realized, because I had experienced the rush. Not once or twice, but many times over the twenty five years that I have been enjoying this hobby. I have made many "finds" in many ghost towns. Some fair, some good, and some great. And even better, I plan on making many more "finds" as I certainly am not through yet.

I set aside my moment of jealousy, my twinge of envy. I was really glad that this fellow digger would share his story with me. I was happy for him. For his "find". I was also anxious. Anxious to get back out there and make that next "find".

I will not mention my new friend's name, as I do not have permission to so. But he is a detectorist from Morgan, Utah. He got my name through mutual friends and wrote to me. He told of finding a deteriorating rusty can of liberty head nickels and several unknown Chaffey, Nevada 5c tokens. It doesn't get much better than this. Congrats on his great find.



NUTS MEDAL DESIGN VOTING WILL BE HELD IN FEBRUARY

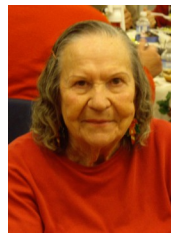
NUTS members it is time to submit your designs for the 2010 club medal. There is no specific theme required for the medal. Photographs may be used for a design as well as artwork. **Remember permission must be obtained to use copy written material.**

N.U.T.S. Website

<http://utahtokensociety.com/>

Johnny Gallegos, Webmaster





Bob Whipple & Todd Monson

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Johnny Gallegos



Bob & Susan Whipple



Larry, Susan & Cambree Kimura



Bruce Griggs



Hunter, Jen and Brandon Phillips



Phil Lavorgna



Derek, Eldon & Mary Farnsworth

DECEMBER PARTY



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 6th – Goldfield Ghost Town/Apache Junction, Arizona. 5th Annual Diggin in the Desert sponsored by the FMDAC Southwestern Chapter. Three hunts in one day at this 1890's gold mining town. Gold nuggets, silver coins and donated prizes to win! Gold nugget raffles throughout the day. This is a natural desert field with the targets planted. For more information, contact Mike Smith at (480) 983-7011 or pro-mack@quik.com

MARCH 6th – 7th – Big Spring, Texas. The Big Spring Prospector's Club will hold its 41st Annual Gem & Mineral Show at the Howard County Fair Barn. Sat. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sun 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Dealers, demonstrators, food, hook-ups, parking. Something for everyone! For more information, contact Show Chairman Jerald Wilson at 707 Tulane, Big Spring, TX 79720, phone (432) 263-4662 or (432) 263-3340.

MARCH 13th – 14th – Longview, Texas. Texas Treasure Show 2010 and open hunt presented by the Texas Council of Treasure Clubs. This is the largest treasure show in the USA! For registration information, see <http://www.texasCouncil.net> and click on Special Event or Member Events.

MARCH 27th – 28th – Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. The Greenbush Prospectors, Inc. of Greenbush Wisconsin, is sponsoring their Second Annual Gold and Treasure Show, Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Sheboygan Falls Municipal Building, 375 Buffalo St. There will be guest speakers, demonstrations, raffles and vendors. In addition, the Wisconsin State Gold Panning Competition will be held Saturday. Children's Treasure Hunt both days, plus other special children's programs. For more info, contact Mike Ogea at_ogeagold@charter.net or (920) 467-3728, or Ron Smith at aumith2005@yahoo.com or (920) 207-4092). You can also log onto the club's website at www.wisgold.org

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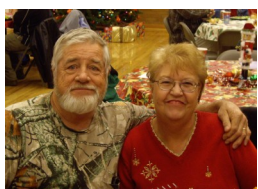
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Leo & Sandra Vera



Bill Turpela & Janel Day



Boyd & Connie Pickering



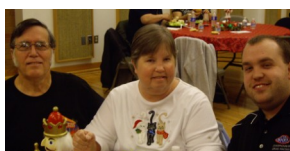
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Marv Graves



Don, Jill & Jeremy Swain



Todd Monson



Cliff & Renee Fausett



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Terry & Terri Wright



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Bob, Max & Carol Campbell



Ramie, Clay & Jason Riggs



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Marlyn & Denise Wilson



Werner Thiemig



Lisa & Mike Morey



Eldon Farnsworth



A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

By Senior Master Sgt. Robert Block (388th Maintenance Group)
Taken from the Hilltop TIMES

They say the way to a woman's heart is with diamonds. If you count the search for a missing memento against impossible odds as another, some 388th Fighter Wing personnel and assorted volunteers found a way to do just that in order to ease the ache in the heart of an Air Force spouse. Capt. George "Ice" Houghton was killed when his F-16 Fighting Falcon went down at a site south of Wendover in a remote area of the Utah Test and Training Range commonly known as Baker Strong Point. The resulting wreckage spread over the area for at least a mile. Although pilots cannot wear their wedding rings while flying jets, they often carry them in a pocket of their flight suit or somewhere on their person.

Maj. Robert T. Ungerman, a friend of the pilot, was asked by Josie Houghton many times if her husband's wedding ring had been found. After repeatedly replying, "No," Ungerman felt this response was unacceptable. A belief in humanity and the power of giving Josie back a fond memory propelled Ungerman in his efforts to organize a search for the ring. After coordinating ideas for this effort with Paul Nelson, 75th Air Base Wing Plans and Programs, Nelson told Ungerman about a metal detector club that had assisted with a wedding ring search approximately 10 years ago at another F-16 fatal crash site.

The Trails West Artifacts Society, a chartered group of individuals who enjoy spending their time together rummaging through old ghost towns and other sites throughout the state with metal detectors, responded emphatically to Ungerman's re-

quest and volunteered to help. Club president, Ralph Gold, and six club members, Mark Adams, Jay Atchison, Francis and Marian Clements, Robert Lichtenberg and Tyson Gold were determined to find and return the personal memento.

As Atchison, the vice president of the club, said of their free locating searches, "When it is in remembrance of a lost loved one it makes finding those (missing) items even better."

With the support of the 388th FW leadership, Ungerman's quest became a reality as he coordinated with Maj. Sean Keene, 388th Range Squadron Detachment 1 commander, and set a date and time for the search.

"To me, the RANS is an incredible organization," Ungerman said. "They took care of the nearly impossible process of getting this group of civilians out on the high security range, and they even took care of food, water and other comforts to help the search team."

Still needing Air Force volunteers, a request was sent to the 388th FW group and squadron commanders. Within minutes, e-mail and phone call responses flooded in. As less than a dozen volunteers were needed, most had to be turned away. Master Sgt. Michael Secora, Master Sgt. David Czerwinski, Tech. Sgt. Ross Stotz, Senior Airman Ashley Sorrell, Airman 1st Class Adrian Bales and Senior Master Sgt. Robert Block were selected to join in the search for the precious article for Josie.

On Oct. 17, the group of volunteers met up with Maj. Keene and his team at the Dugway Proving Grounds. Upon entry and clearance, an initial safety

briefing was presented by Marcus Teters, 388th RANS, and an explosive ordnance disposal safety briefing was provided by Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Horton and Staff Sgt. Jeffery Polley, 775th CES.

The ramifications of what the members were up against set in and the mood changed as game faces started to show.

The ride took roughly an hour and fifteen minutes to the site. The search began for the "diamond in the rough" and TWAS members sorted through the debris hour after hour with no luck.

Determined, the group members continued to look for the missing ring which seemed to gain a more special meaning as the search continued.

As dusk approached, still nothing had been found and it seemed time to wrap things up but Czerwinski made the suggestion that the searchers put aside technology and do a "FOD" walk to the left of the initial search area. Hope was getting thin, but then unbelievably the group heard a faint cry, "I found it."

After months of rain, wind, strafing and bombing missions "the diamond in the rough" appeared. There was a sigh of relief as the group huddled around Keene, who had discovered the ring and was cleaning it off. Inside was Josie's inscription to her husband.

Ungerman presented Josie with the ring on Oct. 30 after a trip to visit friends and the recently returned 421st FS.

"When I first opened the ring box and saw George's unscathed wedding band, I began to weep and weep," Josie said in describing

Continued page 10



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 388TH FIGHTER WING (ACC)
HILL AIR FORCE BASE UTAH**

Colonel Scott J. Zobrist
Commander, 388th Fighter Wing
5887 D Ave Suite 232
Hill AFB UT 84056-5017

K

Mr. Ralph M. Gold
2242 South 300 West
Clearfield UT 84015

U

Mr. Gold

D

Thank you very much for selflessly volunteering your time to assist in the 17 October 2009 search for Captain George Houghton's wedding ring which was never recovered after his 22 June 2009 crash on the Utah Test and Training Range. I was humbled by your group's generous offer to give their own time in search of the ring ...and my heart leapt when I heard the great news that the ring had been found!

O

The ring was returned to Captain Houghton's wife, Josie, at the end of October and she was overcome with joy. It's impossible to put into words what this will mean to her, but suffice it to say that you have forever changed the life of Ms. Josie Houghton by helping recover a precious reminder of her beloved husband who was lost in service to his country. You should be proud of what you and your team did to recover Captain Houghton's ring. I'm sure you have accomplished many great things in your life, but helping find Captain Houghton's ring will always be at the top of the list.

S

Thanks again for your role in returning Captain Houghton's ring to his wife, Josie. As a small token of our gratitude, please accept this 388th Fighter Wing coin which I give to Airmen who demonstrate outstanding performance. One of our US Air Force core values is "Service Before Self," and you have demonstrated that above and beyond what anyone could ask. As such, I'd like to present this coin on behalf of the 388th Fighter Wing for what you have done for the spouse of a fallen hero in the 388th Fighter Wing. Thanks again for all you do for your community and the Airmen of Hill AFB.

Additionally, I have enclosed a personal letter and wing coin for each member of your team that participated in the search effort. I would appreciate your distributing them at your next club meeting.

Sincerely

SCOTT J. ZOBRIST
Colonel, USAF

Ralph Gold is also a member of the NUTS Club. It is detectorist like him and his friends that give all detectorists a good name.

COIN COLLECTING A GREAT HOBBY FOR ALL AGES

Barber Half Dollar



Coin collecting is the collection and **trading** of legitimate currency. It normally consists of collecting coins or bank notes that have become rare or unused. There are also many highly sought-after pieces such as coins with a manufacturing defect or limited edition coins that have been released.

While trying to gather as much **money** as possible and keep it has been a hobby for as long as money has existed, collecting coins for their artistic value is believed to have started around the fifteenth century. Back then it was a hobby for the wealthy upper class that collected coins and artifacts from ancient civilizations.

Coin collectors normally begin their hobby when they decide to keep some of the stranger or more beautiful coins they have gathered as part of regular saving, many also decide to start a collection when they return from holidays with a collection of foreign coins.

Flying Eagle Cent



Many different types of collectors exist with some wanting a particular set of coins such as year collections, country collections or subject collections while others are happy to lay their hands on just about anything. As coin collecting has evolved so have the values attributed to the coins. Today there are numerous scales used to judge the value of a coin based on its condition and frequency.

So after learning a little bit about coin collecting I am going to explain a few reasons why it is a good hobby for children to participate in. Firstly coin collecting normally becomes a life long hobby for most people who start. It encourages the child to search for and save money, a parallel to something they will have to do when older to earn a living. Secondly it teaches the child patience and appreciation as they will often have to wait to get that final coin to complete a set. Thirdly it can be an aid and a motivation for the child to learn about the history and importance of money, another skill that is a necessity in the today's life.

Coin collecting is an investment in your future. If you learn as much as you can and choose your coins wisely this can be a profitable hobby for anyone.



SEA WORLD



Chuck E. Cheese



Mickey Mouse New York
Subway Token



World Bazaar

KIDS CORNER



Do you collect tokens or medals?



3D Art. Can you see it?



HALF-SIZED QUIZ!

WHICH IS NEARLY HALF THE SIZE OF:

1. WHICH IS NEARLY HALF THE SIZE OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN?
 - a. The Atlantic Ocean
 - b. The Indian Ocean
 - c. The Arctic Ocean
2. WHICH IS NEARLY HALF THE SIZE OF AN OSTRICH?
 - a. A Penguin
 - b. A Stork
 - c. An Emu
3. WHICH IS NEARLY HALF THE SIZE OF THE PLANET EARTH?
 - a. Neptune
 - b. Mars
 - c. Saturn
4. WHICH IS NEARLY HALF THE SIZE OF AFRICA?
 - a. India
 - b. Antarctica
 - c. South America
5. WHICH IS NEARLY HALF THE SIZE OF A TENNIS COURT?
 - a. A bowling Lane
 - b. A Basketball Court
 - c. An Olympic-size swimming pool

ANSWERS PAGE 11

Continued from page 6

first seeing the ring. "It was the closure that I had been seeking. It was an answer to my prayers. It was a miracle!

"Of all the possessions that could have been recovered from the crash site, I desired to have my husband's wedding band the most," she said. "It brings back the best memories that I have of him and it represents our timeless love.

"I (now) wear the ring on a chain that Major Ungerman and his wife gave to me as a gift. It is close to my heart all the time," Josie said. Ungerman was the 421st family liaison officer, and he and his wife, Karen, are friends of the family.

"I am so incredibly grateful to the

individuals who put so much time and effort into finding George's ring. I have seen the best part of humanity at work in the Air Force. I feel so blessed that so many people would devote their time to help recover something so precious to me," Josie concluded.

Others feel they were indeed fortunate, as well, to

have been a part of the miraculous search.

"I feel blessed to have been part of this endeavor," said Keene, of the 388th RANS joint effort and of finding the ring. "Our detachment was 'all in' to support the crash recovery, and that commitment was demonstrated again with this search effort. Upon seeing the vast debris field for the first time (the day of the search),

it looked to me like our chances were slim for finding the ring. I believe the only reason we were successful is because God willed it. Other (previous) search efforts had come up empty, and there was nothing special about the skills it took to see it that day ... just the dedication of a small group to be there at the right time and place."

He also passed along the comments of his commander, Col. Jeffery Snell, 388th RANS, who responded to the successful search, "Finding the ring was truly amazing and is probably the most important thing we will ever be a part of during our leadership tenure at the range!" Through the effort and determination of numerous volunteers to fulfill a grieving widow's request, the miraculous happened.



2010 N.U.T.S. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION NATIONAL UTAH TOKEN SOCIETY

2010 Meetings are on the 4th Thursday of the Month.
With August, November and December to be determined.

Meetings are at the Columbus Community Center
2531 South 400 East, South Salt Lake, Utah

Name (Please include all names for family membership)

Names

Address

EMAIL Address

Phone (Please include home and cell numbers AND AREA CODE)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

☐ \$10 Single

☐ \$15 Family

Method of Payment

☐ Cash

☐ Check # _____

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INTERESTS:



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. a
2. c
3. b
4. b
5. a

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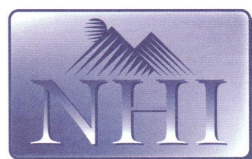
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